Status of PMGSY in Bihar

†902. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Bihar; and

(b) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) In respect of Bihar, PMGSY proposals to the tune of Rs. 149.89 crore were cleared in 2000-01 and the amount was released in March, 2001. The State has reported an expenditure of Rs. 33.80 crore till January, 2003. Proposals for Rs. 302.98 crore were cleared for 2001-02 and 2002-03 in July, 2002. No amount has been released so far since the State has not yet achieved 50% expenditure in respect of releases of PMGSY 2000-01.

Tackling of drinking water shortage in the country

†903. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that severe shortage of drinking water is being felt in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme for construction of reservoirs like ponds and lakes in rural areas in order to check the declining water level in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. 18 States reported to have been affected by drought are Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa.

(b) and (c) For supplementing the efforts of the States in dealing with drinking water shortages in rural areas, Government of India releases funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.